

SALAD SPILL STARTS FIGHT IN WALDORF

Diner. Showered with French Dressing. Pummels Offending Waiter.

UPROAR IN GRILL ROOM

Florida Man Says Serving Man Disliked Him and Had Revenge—Ordered from Hotel.

After a fist fight, in which the combatants, well bespattered with French salad dressing, rolled about the floor of the Waldorf-Astoria grill room among shrieking women and shouting waiters, one of the two, who registered a few days ago as "H. D. Brown, Jacksonville, Fla.," and who is said to be interested in horse-racing, was escorted to the office of the manager last night and requested to leave the hotel. He complied with this request about the same time that his opponent, a waiter, was bundled into a taxicab and sent home to nurse his injuries.

The fight occurred at the height of the dinner hour. The grill room was crowded to its capacity. Brown, who was seated at a table with a strikingly handsome woman, seemed in exuberant humor. He had attracted the notice of other diners by his evident high spirits. The dinner had progressed as far as the salad stage when Brown called a waiter, August Schmidt, and ordered French dressing.

The waiter entered the grill room a few minutes later and began working his way through the diners toward Brown, holding the salad high in air before him. He had approached within a scant half-dozen feet of Brown's table when he tripped. He tried vainly to recover his balance, and then dived headforemost toward the table. The salad, like a brilliant saffron comet, landed full on Mr. Brown's shirtfront.

The waiter had barely gained his feet when Brown leaped from his chair and struck him. The waiter went down. And as he scrambled to his feet Brown landed another punch on Schmidt's jaw and sent him to the floor again. Without waiting for the waiter to recover himself Brown leaped forward and began kicking him as he lay prostrate.

Several men left their tables and moved toward the scene, and George C. Boldt, manager of the hotel, hurried in, and separating the pair, had the half-conscious waiter removed to the surgical room below stairs. Boldt then took Brown by the arm and walked toward the door. As Brown crossed the threshold indignation men aimed blows at his head which barely missed him, and Mr. Boldt hurried his charge into his private office.

There he learned the cause of the trouble, and ended by asking Brown to leave the hotel at once. This Brown agreed to do.

Brown said that the trouble began several days ago. He said that Schmidt, who had served his meals, had taken a violent dislike to him and had taken revenge in petty ways that culminated last night, with the salad incident. Then, Brown said, he lost his temper.

Schmidt, in charge of a house detective, had his injuries patched up and was sent home in a taxicab. Brown left the hotel immediately, but returned about 10 o'clock, and, after packing several bags,

departed in a taxicab for the Pennsylvania station. It is believed that he started for Washington.

TO APPRAISE WATER COS.

Mayor Wants to Know What Private Ones Are Worth to City

Mayor Gaynor yesterday appointed Lawrence G. Goldin, Eugene H. Outerbridge and Nelson P. Lewis, chief engineer of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, as a committee to inquire into the value of the different private water companies which are supplying water in several sections of the city, in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of several weeks ago. In writing to them he said:

What we particularly wish your judgment upon is the method of valuing such companies for the purpose of taking them over by the city. The basis of such valuation needs to be considered and stated. For instance, it is easy to say that these companies are supplying water in sections of the city which are rapidly growing in population, and that, therefore, their net income will grow with the growth of population. But on the other hand we have to consider that all public service corporations are subject to the State Legislature, and that it will be presumed that the Legislature would see that the rates were so regulated that not more than a proper return for the capital invested would be allowed. A variety of suggestions like this will occur to you as readily as to me.

I have considerable anxiety about this matter and I shall be glad that you all serve on this commission, even at some inconvenience to yourselves.

TWO IMPORTERS ARRESTED

Leon and Henry Bloch Accused of Customs Frauds.

Leon and Henry D. Bloch, members of the firm of L. D. Bloch & Co., of No. 44 West Broadway, were arrested yesterday upon the complaint of W. H. Wemple, Assistant Attorney General, charging them with conspiracy to defraud the government of customs duties on china imported from Limoges, France.

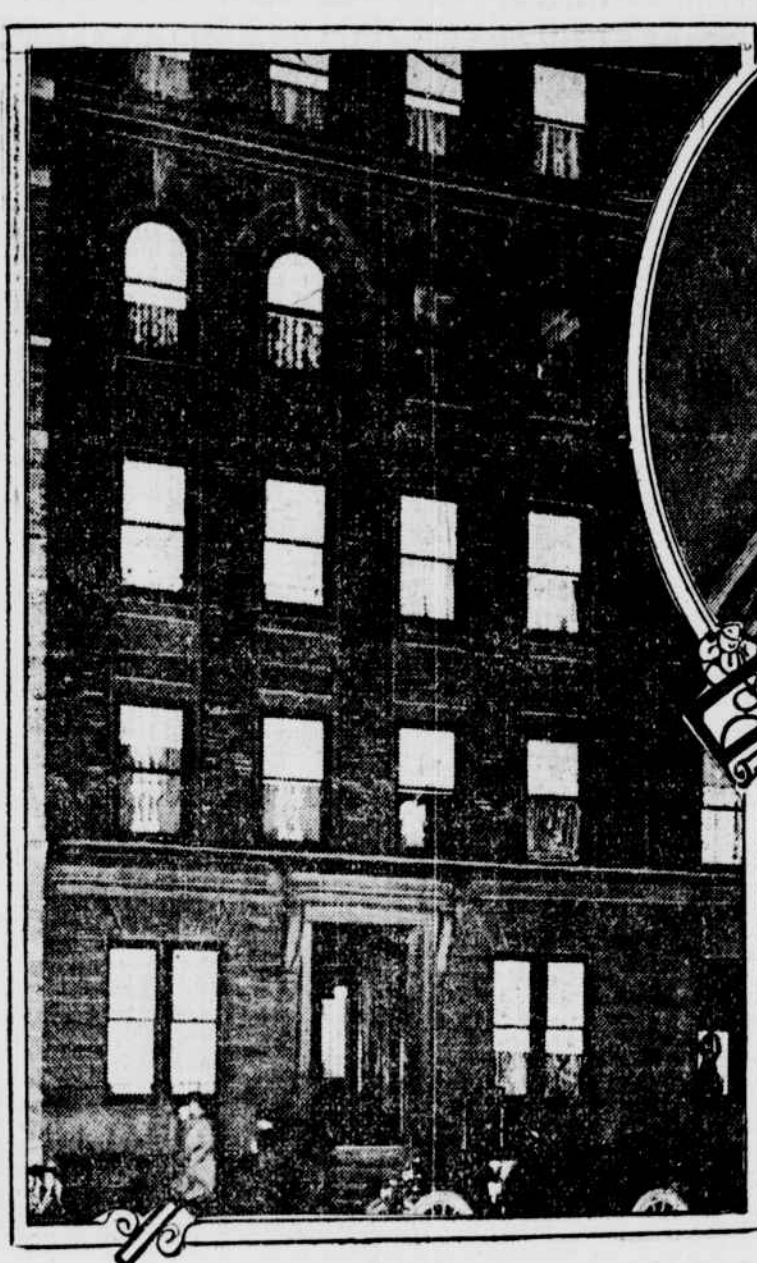
While the complaint, based on the report of George C. Davis, a customs examiner, mentioned only one overt act of undervaluation, Mr. Wemple said that the alleged frauds involved a considerable amount of merchandise. The two men were arraigned before John A. Shields, United States Commissioner, and held in \$2,500 bail each for examination on January 17.

The government's move against the firm of L. D. Bloch & Co., it was said yesterday, was the beginning of numerous prosecutions that will be brought against certain importers of French china, who, the customs authorities have found, have entered Limoges china here at a valuation below the actual cost of production in the famous French china district.

HOTCHKISS TO SERVE HERE.

Albany, Jan. 8.—Governor Sulzer announced today that at the request of Presiding Justice George L. Ingraham and his colleagues of the Appellate Division, 1st Department, he had designated Supreme Court Justice Henry D. Hotchkiss to serve on the New York City Appellate bench to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation to the Court of Appeals of Judge Nathan L. Miller.

POLICE CAPTAIN McDERMOTT.
And the apartment house he owns on St. Nicholas avenue.



In spite of the arrests, although three of them were made in one house which he had dropped from the list.

Finally he summed up his appraisal of "Form 29" in this manner:

"I'm the sole judge of whether a house should be put on the 'suspected list' and I'll stand on that."

"Then, in spite of this rule, you actually give the Commissioner just what information you think he ought to have."

"Well, I'm the judge."

As to complaints of disorderly houses sent in by citizens, McDermott frankly admitted that some of them received no attention, though some of them were sent along to the inspector.

"In the judge, and if I don't think there's anything to the complaint, I tear it up," he said.

The committee will meet at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

SIPP TO REVEAL GRAFT Freed from Jail at Atlantic City. Will Aid Whitman.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)
Atlantic City, Jan. 8.—George A. Sipp walked out of the city jail here a free man shortly before 5 o'clock today.

Word was received by Chief of Police Woodruff this afternoon from Deputy Commissioner Dougherty, of the New York Police Department, that the grand jury there had not found an indictment

Money in Police Business.

According to figures available as to the value of the McDermott farm near Binghamton, it is worth something in the neighborhood of \$5,000, and as an estimate of the captain's earnings as a policeman, counting his thirty-eight years on the force, and his last ten years on a captain's salary of \$2,750, totals up to approximately \$75,000. It would appear that the high cost of living had not bothered McDermott to any great extent.

His apartment house is a five story building overlooking the lower end of St. Nicholas Park, with ten tenants besides the janitor. It is one of the old style apartment houses, well kept up, gas lighted, and with heavily carpeted stairs.

Captain McDermott was questioned as to his relations with "Dollar John" Langer, and although he boasted that he had been "twenty years a police officer on the East Side," he claimed at first that he knew the famous "Dollar John" only by reputation. Asked if he had not been in the habit of meeting the well known gambler weekly in "Little Hungary," McDermott denied it hotly, and then admitted he "might have spoken to him while he was in that restaurant."

The captain seemed to be afraid to admit acquaintance with "Dollar John" or even knowledge of his interests, but finally, when Buckner pointed out to him that the place had been raided while he was in command of the precinct, he admitted that he knew "Dollar John" was running a gambling house.

Evidently mindful of Mayor Gaynor's impassioned regret that "Becker had sat down and dined with Rosen-thal," however, McDermott stoutly denied every intimation from Buckner that he had been in the habit of dining with "Dollar John" at "Little Hungary."

It developed gradually that Captain McDermott did not have much use for "Form 29," the monthly report of captains to the Police Commissioner of "suspected gambling and disorderly houses." He declared proudly that "when Captain McDermott visited a disorderly house that house moved, and there was no need of putting it on the list."

His rule of procedure was based largely on the proposition of whether a suspected house admitted him. If it didn't admit him he admitted he became suspicious, but even then he didn't always put it on the "suspected list."

"When they'd look at me through a peephole, and wouldn't admit me, I'd have suspicions that they weren't right," he said. In October, 1911, it appeared, McDermott's report from the Union Market station was a clean sheet, so far as disorderly house suspects were concerned. He declared that he usually left a "clean sheet" of that kind behind him in every precinct he served.

Sheet Not Always Clean.

"Do you leave the precinct as clean as the sheet?" he was asked.

"Yes, I do," he replied.

But Mr. Buckner had the records of arrests and raids in his precinct by Central Office men at five different disorderly houses after October, 1911.

McDermott didn't carry a "suspected place" on his reports after that date.

PROBE FOR SIPP "FRAME-UP" NEXT

Continued from first page.

and indictments for subornation of perjury are likely to be laid at the door of one inspector and one lieutenant who were active in the matter.

Stephen McDermott, now captain of the Bathgate avenue station, The Bronx, was called before the aldermanic committee yesterday in the continuation of the "constructive" end of its police inquiry. The captain believed he was to be quizzed as an expert on police duties and routine, and was cruelly surprised when the first questions shot at him by Emory R. Buckner, counsel to the committee, bore evidence of having been based on his own personal departmental record.

Surprise for McDermott.

McDermott's first big surprise came when Buckner asked:

"How much were you worth when you became a captain?"

"I don't think that concerns the committee," he answered.

They fenced on that point for a few minutes, and finally the captain said he had bought a farm near Binghamton about twenty-seven years ago. It developed gradually that the farm was one of seventy acres, ten of them wooded, and that the captain was "proud of it."

"Did you ever make the statement that you paid \$7,000 to be made a captain?"

"No, no, I didn't," and by this time McDermott was shouting, "the man that said that to you was a liar and a degenerate."

After the captain had delivered himself of a defence of Commissioner Greene, under whom he was promoted to his captaincy, Buckner went after him again.

"Do you own any real estate in New York City?"

McDermott refused to answer. He declared at length on the personal nature of the question, and declared with fervor he had thought he was to be asked only about police business.

Finally Mr. Buckner, apparently dropping the matter, asked him where he lived, and McDermott gave his address as No. 416 St. Nicholas avenue.

"Is that an apartment house?"

"Yes."

"Have you any interest in that apartment house?"

"Now, quit that, counselor, I re-

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application of the New York Consolidated Railroad Company for authority to purchase the entire capital stock of the Municipal Company.

HIGHWAY BODY TO GO

Democrats Plan to Name a "Commissioner of Roads."

Albany, Jan. 8.—Plans for the reorganization of the present Highway Commission were discussed today by Governor Sulzer and Democratic leaders of the Senate. As outlined to the Governor by the majority leader, Senator Wagner, Senator Murtagh, who drafted the present highway law, and Senator White, chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee, the new bill will provide for a single "commissioner of roads" in place of the present Highway Commission.

The commissioner will be authorized to appoint three deputies to have charge of road construction, care and maintenance and town highways, respectively. The number of division engineers will be increased from six to nine, the engineers to be appointed by the road commissioner from a civil service list and to have jurisdiction over roads in their respective districts.

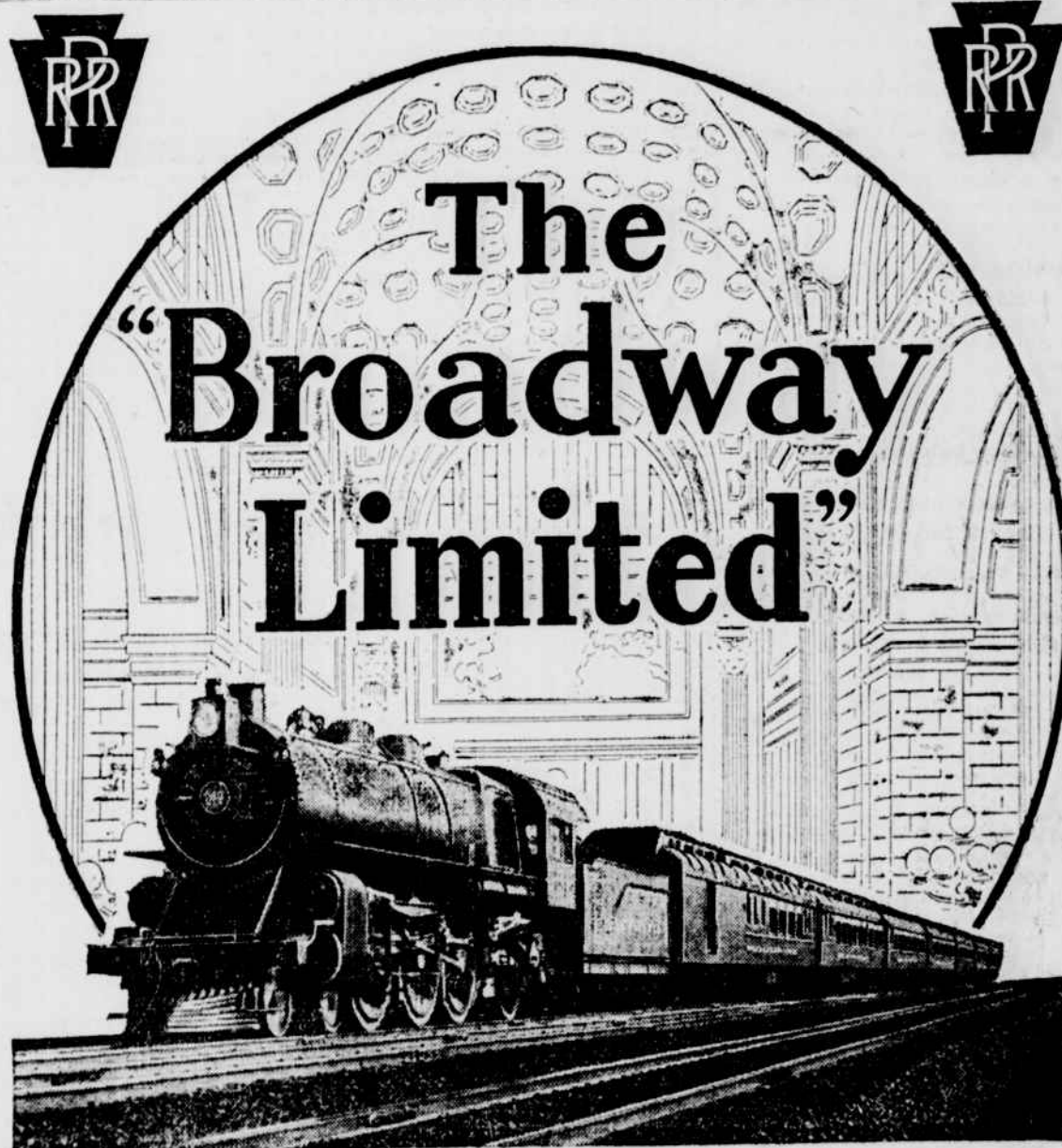
Senator Wagner said the new bill would probably be ready for introduction next Monday.

ROGERS BACKS UP DE KAY

Denies He Wrote to Dix's Secretary About Commutation for Abrams.

Gustavus A. Rogers, who made the application to Governor Dix which resulted in a commutation of the sentence of Louis Abrams, issued a statement last night in which he denied he had any communication with Major De Kay, the former Governor's military secretary, until after Governor Dix had announced his decision.

Mr. Rogers said he had never heard of the case until the night of December 4, hours after Abrams had been sentenced. Major De Kay was present, however, when Mr. Rogers laid the petition for commutation before the Governor for the first time on December 10. He said the Abrams case was the only one in which he ever made an application either for a pardon or a commutation of sentence.



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